



The Parish of Saints Philip and James
1 Carow Place, St. James, NY 11780

631-584-5454

Twenty-third Sunday
In Ordinary Time
September 9, 2018



*"Thus says the Lord:
Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not! Here is your God,...
He comes to save you." Isaiah 35:4*

*"With Philip & James we pray to live lives worthy of the call to be
Apostles of Hope"*

Daily Mass: 7:30am and 9:15 am
Saturday 5pm Sunday: 8am 10 am 12noon

Parish Center Office Hours:

Sunday ~ Closed
Monday: 9am-8pm

Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am-5pm
Thursday: 9am-8pm

Friday: 9am-12 Noon
Saturday: 10am-2pm

Parish Center Phone ~ 631-584-5454

Parish Center Fax~ 631-862-9675

Web ~ www.sspj.org

Pastoral Team

Father Tom Haggerty

Father Patrick Osei-Poku

Deacon Ronald Blasius

Deacon John Keenan

Deacon Ken Maher

Sister Theresita Donach, CSFN

Margaret Adams

Virginia Portanova

John Cordes

Lynn Sisti

Charlotte Czujko

Barbara Luna

Dominick Avento

Catherine Darrow

Frank Brancaccio

Pastor

Associate Pastor

Deacon

Deacon

Deacon

Pastoral Associate

Director of Music

Business Manager

Director of Facilities

Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 1-2

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 3-6

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 7-8

Religious Education Administrator

Youth Minister

Pastoral Council

Claire DiCarlo, Richard Frazita, Lou Guerra, Kelsey Greco, Cynthia Lombardi,
Martin Marut, Ann Mondrone, Mary Ann Pose, Paul Damato

Trustees

Jerry Linder ~ Tina Cafaro

SSPJ School—Principal Diane M. Anderson

School Phone : 631-584-7896 School Fax: 631-584-3258

Sacraments

Baptism— Celebrated twice per month. Parents are asked to register at the Pastoral Center for Pre-Baptism Program.

Marriage—Couples are asked to contact the Pastoral Center before visiting the reception hall. The Marriage Preparation process is nine months before your proposed wedding date.

Confirmation—Seventh and Eighth grade students are prepared to celebrate through Religious Ed or SSPJ School. Adults prepare through RCIA.

Reconciliation— Available Saturdays from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the Church or by contacting the Parish Center for an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick— In case of serious, unexpected illness, please contact the Parish Center office to arrange for a Priest to pray with the person who is ill. Anointing of the Sick is held on the first Sunday of the month following the 12:00mass please see the Sacristan before mass.

R.C.I.A.— Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (non-Catholic adults desiring to become Catholic) are asked to contact the Parish Center Office.

Eucharistic Adoration In The Church— Thursday 2-4pm Friday 8-9pm

Father Tom's Letter

Dear Friends,

During the summer a number of thoughtful quotes have been painted on the auditorium walls. They not only brighten the physical setting but also they will hopefully speak to us as Apostles of Hope. One of them is Ghandi's famous call ***"to be the change you want to see."*** I would imagine that like me, your hearts are aching in this dark time in our church. I have discovered a new poverty. I really don't know what to say. All that I can give you is my commitment to Christ Jesus and His to me and to ask the same of you. I was touched by Father Rohlheiser's "Ode to the Church" which is his column this week. I encourage you to read it and to pray with it.

A second quote you'll see in the auditorium is ascribed to St. Francis of Assisi who, as you know, heard the words spoken to us as well today. ***"Rebuild My Church"***. Those words of Jesus lead Francis to the words ascribed to him. ***"The best critique of the bad is the practice of the better"***. As we endeavor to do both, we pray, ***where there is darkness let us bring light, where there is injury pardon, despair - hope, sadness - joy.***

Throughout the gospel and throughout the beginning of this new season, Jesus calls us to remain open. ***"Ephphatha!"*** Be open to the possibilities for transformation through selfless love, for recreation that is enabled by humble generosity, for restoration that can be brought about by patient acceptance and understanding. This is what we have been calling "bite-sized" acts of love; the ministry of hope; the response made by Apostles of Hope to the One who continues to call us to read beyond the foreign ***"ephphatha"*** and to understand the joy brought to self and others by the life-giving response to "be open".

I'm happy to let you know that joining the Pastoral Team in ministry this year is Sister Theresita Donach, csfn. Sister Terry's initials stand for Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. "Sister T" will be ministering as a part time Pastoral Associate dealing in spirituality, our Baptism and RCIA programs and welcoming new parishioners to SSPJ. I've asked her to write something for next week's bulletin to introduce herself to us. I ask you please to give her your characteristic warm welcome.

A big welcome back to Children's Liturgy! They will begin sharing the word of the Lord with our Pre-k up thru 4th grade children, beginning this weekend.

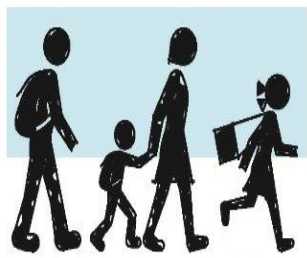
Already September has been filled with activities opening us to God's love and God's call. It was wonderful to meet with the faculty and staff of our school and to welcome back our students! And our Religious Education catechists have been meeting as they prepare to engage our young people in their faith journeys. Many ministries renew themselves in September, and we hope to be creating some new ways of ministering as Apostles of Hope. Again, I encourage you, be open!!

Peace,

Father Tom

Apostles: We Who Are Sent...Hope: God's constant gift of new possibilities

Our Parish Family welcomes all students, teachers and families back to school!
May God's abundant blessings shine down upon this wonderful new start!



Back to School with God

*God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being,
for mind, body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin
a new school year.
Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds
as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



**SECOND COLLECTION
THIS WEEKEND:
SEPTEMBER 8TH & 9TH, 2018
FOR:**



The Catholic University of America is unique among universities in the United States – even among Catholic universities. Established by Pope Leo XIII and the U.S. bishops in 1887, it is the national university of the Catholic Church. In addition to alumni who hail from this diocese, Catholic University claims one third of the U.S. bishops and 12,000 priests and religious as alumni. In Washington, D.C., the University provides an education based in the Catholic intellectual tradition to almost 7,000 students through its 12 schools. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

All are WELCOME!

The Saint Monica Prayer Group

Will be meeting on
Tuesday, September 11, 2018

At 7:00pm in the Parish Center Cantina

This meeting will be followed by:

RESPECT LIFE MEETING

At 7:30pm in the Parish Center Cantina

All are welcome to join this
wonderful ministry

All are welcome to join:

THE WASHKIT GANG!

Their first meeting for the year will be on:

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2018
FROM 7PM-8PM
IN THE AUDITORIUM**

Donations of trial size soap, trial size shampoo, zip lock sandwich bags, wash cloths, band aids, and hard candy are always needed and appreciated.

All are invited to attend. Children must be accompanied by a parent, but are always welcome.

Please HELP US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity

Join the MUSIC MINISTRY!

Membership in the Music Ministry is ongoing! We are in need of Accompanists, Cantors, and Members, especially, MEN. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this rewarding Ministry. We are all Apostles of Hope. The need is great! As together, WE PRAISE PRAISE GOD THROUGH MUSIC

CHOIRS ARE BACK ON SEPTEMBER 15TH AND 23RD!

First Mass and Rehearsals are as follows:

Chords of Faith –Rehearsal Tuesday September 11th, 7:30 pm
Mass September 15th 5pm

Adult Choir – Rehearsal September 13, 7:30 pm
Mass September 23rd 10:00am

Children's Choir –Rehearsal September 18th, 4:30 pm
Mass September 22nd 5pm

**All rehearsals are in the Church Any questions please
CONTACT: MARGARET ADAMS**

AT 584-5454 OR SSPJMUSICMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM

SINGING IN THE ADULT CHOIR:

- ◆ Is a great way to meet new friends and feel a part of a group;
- ◆ Is therapeutic, a time to put aside the other pressures and concerns of day;
- ◆ Provides musical memories that can comfort you in difficult situation;
- ◆ Gives members a sense of self-worth and pride;
- ◆ Teaches healthy posture and breathing techniques; and
- ◆ Develops habits for better enunciation in everyday speech



Children's Liturgy
of the **Word**

**WELCOME BACK CHILDRENS
LITURGY OF THE WORD!**

**ALL children from
Pre-K thru 4th Grade
Are invited to join this
wonderful ministry which takes
place during the following
masses:**

**Saturday at the 5:00pm mass
Sunday at the 10:00am mass**

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY~ SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2018



This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 16, 2018. The 2018 theme will be "Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ."

Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Our Parish Family is blessed by the guiding hands and dedication of our Catechists
**OUR CATECHISTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR
PARISH CELEBRATION OF CATECHETICAL SUNDAY ON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH AT THE 10:00AM MASS**



**AFTER MASS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE INVITED TO A
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST RECEPTION IN THE AUDITORIUM**

God bless you, God's abundant blessings upon this new Catechetical year!

**Our Religious Education Department is Seeking Catechists for our
Saturday Morning Special Needs Religious Education Team**

***Classes are held in the School Building on
Saturday Mornings from 9am-9:45am***

Classes begin on Saturday, September 29, 2018

***If you are interested in assisting this extraordinary ministry, kindly contact the Religious Education Office
at 631-584-3204.***

Thank you for your consideration, kindness and generosity

Lending a Hand and Prayers To Father Leo

For the past three years, as our school year winds down and the Family festival begins, a friendly, grace filled visitor has come to the doors of Sts. Philip & James .

Those doors opened wide as we greeted the return of Father Leo for the summer months. His kindness, dedication and presence filled our hearts and souls.

In the fall, Our Father Leo will be returning to Mangalore, India. It is there, that he will continue his mission of educating and spreading the word of God to Seminarians enrolled in St. Joseph's Seminary, in Mangalore India.

Father Leo's teachings require many theological textbooks. The cost to purchase and ship these materials can exceed \$4,000. He is unable to purchase the necessary materials in India. As a result, he is trying to obtain these materials, both new and used, while he is staying with us.

If you are moved to assist Father Leo in defraying the cost of these materials, we have established the following:

Any donation in the form of a check:

Make check payable to: SSPJ

In the memo section: Father Leo textbooks

Each book that is purchased by the generosity of Father Leo's SSPJ Parish Family, will have an inscription as such placed inside its front cover.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



Our Food Pantry Would Be APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR HELP

We are in need of,

DINTY MOORE BEEF STEW

SUGAR FREE JELLO AND PUDDING

LOW SUGAR FOODS



Thanking you for your kindness and generosity of heart!!

Adult Education: Beginning September 24th, 2018

Thomas Merton A Spiritual Guide for our Time

Thomas Merton was one of the great spiritual masters of the 20th century.

The circuitous journey of his own life from bon vivant to Trappist monk, from poet and contemplative to peace activist, and from solitary hermit to interlocutor with leading world figures is a fascinating journey that can be a rich resource for all of us seeking a deeper relationship to God.



Join us this fall for three evenings in which we explore Thomas Merton's life.

Sept. 24th: Thomas Merton: Spiritual Explorer

Oct. 30th: Thomas Merton: The Geography of the Inner Life

Nov. 26th: Thomas Merton: Contemplation and Compassion

Location: Bethany Center-Main Meeting Room

Time: 7-9pm

Please confirm your attendance by contacting the Parish Center at 631-584-5454

Conducted by: Thomas Petriano~Professor and Chair of Religious Studies-St. Joseph's College

"TO BE GRATEFUL IS TO RECOGNIZE THE LOVE OF GOD IN EVERYTHING HE HAS GIVEN US...AND HE HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING. EVERY BREATH WE DRAW IS A GIFT OF HIS LOVE, EVERY MOMENT OF EXISTENCE IS A GRACE, FOR IT BRINGS WITH IT IMMENSE GRACES FROM HIM." **THOMAS MERTON**

Classes on Bioethics

Father Leo Lasrado is conducting an Adult education session on An Ethical-Theological outlook on the issues regarding the beginning and the end of human life.

This session began on August 9th, 2018 and will continue each Thursday evening concluding on Thursday, September 20th, 2018.

(August 9, 16, 23, 30/ September 6, 13, 20)

Place: Bethany Center Time: 7:00-8:30pm

If you missed a session, please, come join the discussion when you are able.

Father Leo Lasrado holds a PhD in Moral Theology from the Urban University in Rome and has the experience of teaching in the Seminary.



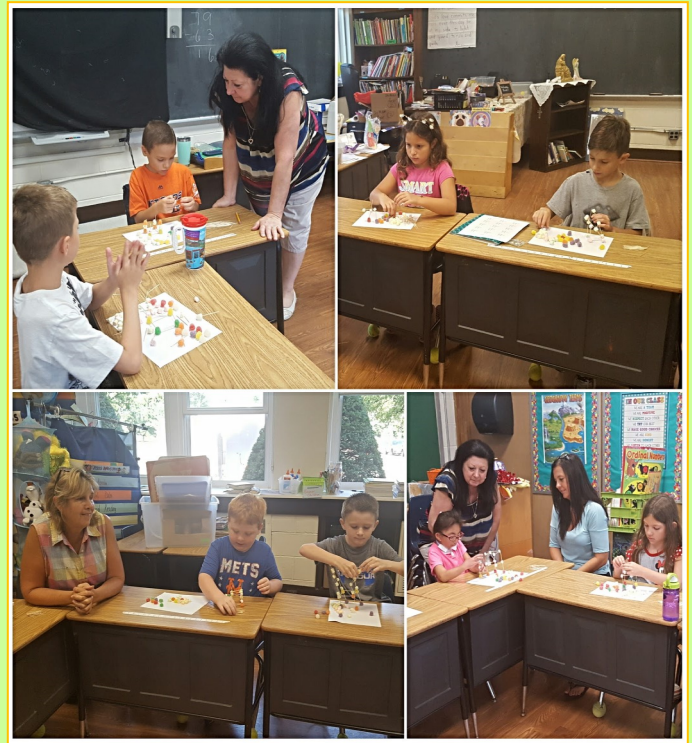


SSPJ Transitional Camp

As much as we look forward to Summer Vacation in June, SSPJ students and faculty look forward to Transitional Camp in August.



A time to see old friends and meet new friends!



A time to get ready for a new school year!

This year many students participated, in SSPJ's Transitional Camp...
a testament to the dedication to the SSPJ faculty!





FORMED

Mary of Nazareth is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. Shot in high definition, it was filmed in Europe with outstanding cinematography, a strong cast, and a majestic music score. Actress Alissa Jung gives a beautiful, compelling, and inspiring portrayal of Mary.

The film vividly captures the essence of Mary's profound faith and trust in God amidst the great mysteries that she lived with as the Mother of the Messiah, as well as her compassionate humanity and concern for others, and the deep love that she and Jesus shared for one another.

Join Brother Francis in this entertaining and guidance-filled presentation that will inspire children to deepen their faith by praying the Rosary!

This episode includes:

- The prayers of the Rosary as well as the Apostles' Creed—each wonderfully visualized!
 - The Annunciation—an animated portrayal of Mary's joyful submission to God's will.
 - "I Love to Pray"—an energetic, catchy song that will encourage children to communicate with God anywhere and anytime!
 - "The Our Father"—an uplifting musical rendition that celebrates our Heavenly Father's presence in our daily lives!
- Besides being a lot of fun, *Brother Francis: The Rosary* is a captivating way to help children use their hearts and minds in prayer.



Father Charles and Laurie Mangano

~ a brother & sister ~

Present a Night of Recollection

One Carow Place, Saint James, NY 11780 631-584-5454
A Night of Song.....Night of Inspiration..... Night of Reflection

SS Philip and James Church

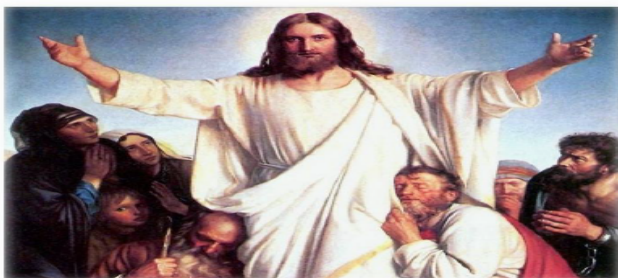
454 N Country Rd, St James, NY ~ (631) 584-5454

Thursday, September 27th
at 7:30 p.m.

~ free will offering ~



Topic: Divine Providence



Discover how our fears and toxic guilt prevent us from living in the freedom of peace that God desires for us.

This outstanding program is supported by scripture, song and personal reflection and is designed to comfort and inspire those facing struggles of any kind. If you've ever wondered: "Where is God in this struggle?", "Why is God allowing this to happen?" or "How can God love me if...?" Then this evening is for YOU!

You will have an opportunity to participate in a symbolic offering of your fears and have them prayed over. Come and refresh your soul and rejuvenate your spirit knowing that God's Divine Providence is at work every day in your life.

Father Charles and Laurie have united their gifts to praise God and minister to His people in a very special way. They have been singing for the Lord since childhood, and together they have touched the hearts of thousands with their meditative and inspirational music. In addition to producing 13 albums, a DVD and music video, Father Charles and Laurie have also co-hosted their own TV show on Telecare for many years. They have sung at countless venues and their benefit concerts have raised \$426,000 for charity to date. This beautiful Night of Recollection on Thursday, September 27th is **guaranteed to be most uplifting!** It is our hope that through this experience we will come to know, love and trust the Lord Jesus in a deeper and more intimate way, leading us to serve the Lord with gladness.

SSPJ Parish Calendar For The Week of September 9th, 2018

Sunday, September 9th, 2018:

8:30am	RCIA	Auditorium/Kitchen
9:00am	KOC HOSPITALITY SUNDAY	Auditorium
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room

Monday, September 10th, 2018

1:00pm	Senior Group Meeting	Philip & James Room
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Tuesday, September 11th, 2018:

1:30pm	Spirit of Love Prayer Group	Bethany Center Main Mtg Room
7:00pm	St. Monica Prayer Group	Cantina
7:30pm	Chords of Faith	Church/Choir Loft
7:30pm	KOC Officers Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:30pm	Respect Life Committee Meeting	Cantina

Wednesday, September 12th, 2018:

7:00pm	REO Special Needs Catechist Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	School High School Preview Night	Main School Building
7:00pm	Youth Ministry Meeting	Bethany Center

Thursday, September 13th, 2018:

2:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00pm	Adult Ed Class-Bioethics	Bethany Center Main Room
7:30pm	Adult Choir	Church & Choir Loft

Friday, September 14th, 2018:

3:00pm	Stained Glass Club	Stained Glass Wkshp
7:00pm	AA Meeting	Philip & James Room
7:00pm	Wash Kit Gang	Auditorium
8:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Saturday, September 15th, 2018:

No events scheduled

Our Bread & Wine
For the Week of September 9th, 2018

Is Offered In Memory of

Maria Cipriani

Wonderful, Loving Mother of
SSPJ 3rd Grade Teacher, Mrs Howard

God's loving peace and blessings
Upon you and your loving family.

Love,

Sts. Philip & James School & Parish
Family



TODAY

Sunday September 9th, 2018
HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus

A wonderful opportunity for a light
breakfast and fellowship

Offered after the 8am and 10am
masses

Please treat yourself and bring a
friend !

Banns of Marriage

First

Anthony Louis Serrapica
St. Joseph's, Garden City
To
Kristen Marie Baranet
St. Barnabas, Bellmore



Second

Dillon Caliguiri~SSPJ
To
Heather Buckshaw
St. Lawrence, Sayville

Third

Michael DeSimone~SSPJ
To
Cayla Francis ~SSPJ

Weekly Collection:
Sunday September 2, 2018

Sunday Collection: \$12,790.
Faith Direct: \$3,823
Children's Jug: \$36.
Total Collection: \$16,649.

Many thanks for your generous
support of
Sts. Philip & James Parish

Mass Intentions, For the week of September 9th, 2018

Saturday, September 8th, 2018

5:00pm Albert Gill

Sunday, September 9th, 2018

8:00am For the Parishioners of SSPJ
10:00am Antonino & Lena Testagrossa
12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Bob Thompson
Joseph Casey
Michael Ferrucci

Monday, September 10th, 2018

7:30am Francis Feriola
9:15am Dr. Virginia Beaton

Tuesday, September 11th, 2018

7:30am Thomas O'Hagan
9:15am Lawrence T. Stack

We Ask You to Remember Our Brothers & Sisters In your Prayers

Anna Capizzio	Julianne
Angela Amoroso	Karen Dempsey
Angelo Peluso	Kathleen N.
Angela Boccio McComb	Kathleen Corcoran
AnnMarie M.	Kitty Cronin,
Baby Mattia Lubrano	Krista Farley
Betty Schmidt	Kylie Quigley
Brett Dowling	Laura Andrucki & family
Brennan Steinorth	Linda Sue
Bryan Van Colt	Livia Parrella
Camden Bailey	Louis Giordano
Carmela Massaro	Mark Montesano
Carole Hennessy	Marie DelCiello,
Catherine Burseind	Marie Fabry
Christel DeBlasio	Marie Loughlin
Christina Meringolo	Mary McDonough
Daisy Abruzzo	Michael LaVecchia
David Shankles	Nancy Fornabia
Dawn Kopel	Nicole Theresa
Dominic Pace	Pasquale Santoro
Dora Vignale	Patricia Casey
Dylan Lauro	Pat Corey
Eileen Zink	Patricia Fontana
Elinor Glasser	Patricia Monetti
Florence Donahue	Patricia Thompson
Gerard Duffy	Paulette Agoglia
Ginny McAuley	Roe Hetterich
Greg	Russell Caiola
Helen McDowell	Robin Graham Denis
Hillary Boehme	Rosemary Morgan
James Gietzen	Sean Winters
Jane Prato	Suzanne McCue
Jane Wigutow	Terence Hobbes
Jeanine EspositoTansey	Teresa Orlik
Joseph Perconti	Thomas McKay
Joe Alberigo	Tim Cavooris
John Capizzio	Terry Pace
Jean McCue	Vivien Cordes
John Harney	Vickie Archdeacon Gibb
John Hernandez	

Wednesday, September 12th, 2018-Most Holy Name of Mary

7:30am Mafalda DiMango
9:15am Pauline Elaine Hope

Thursday, September 13th, 2018

7:30am Bridget Godsell
9:15am Collective Mass:
Raymond E. Faucher
Guiseppe Nictro

Friday, September 14th, 2018

7:30am Theresa Galante
9:15am Bob Wrenn

Saturday, September 15th, 2018

9:15am Marie Bourguignon & Joanne Hanlon
5:00pm Robert, Thomas & Josephine Zirpoli

Sunday, September 16th, 2018

8:00am For The Parishioners of SSPJ
10:00am Helen Congdon
12:00Noon Collective Mass:
Reverend Charles Carow
Pauline Bernath
Carol Noto
Joseph E. Carnesi



We Pray for those Who Serve

LCDR. MEGAN M. SHUTKA-VIK, USN
CAPT. WILSON MARKS- USN
CAPTAIN MICHAEL DOLAN- JR.
LT. COL. JOHN KAIRES
SPC. NICOLE A. CANNON
SGM. MICHAEL P. BORRELLI-US ARMY
CAPT. JOHN TULLY- USN
LT. COL. JAMES TULLY-US ARMY
JOSEPH SAGGIO- USNC
CAPTAIN PAUL WILLMS
STAFF SGT. MICHAEL LONGHENRY
LT. COL. PAUL T. JACKSON-
STAFF SGT ALEXANDER PARRELLA-USAF
RICHARD SOTOMAYER- USAF
SGT. CONNOR F. SCOTT- USMC
CORPORAL DANIEL P. STEELE-USMC
SGT. CORY O'HARA -USMC
CDR. ROBERT J. MARSH-USN
PFC. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HOWELL
STEVEN CAVA-USN
ERIC SEELIN- USMC
CW2 CHRIS MUNZ
CW2 NATASHA WORTMAN
CORPORAL JAMES T. CASEY-USMC
GREGORY DEVANEY- USMC
SGT. JOSHUA MAHONEY- US ARMY
KEVIN JONES-USCG
PRIVATE JOSHUA OLSEN-USARNG
GLEN CRIMA-US ARMY
SGT. ANTHONY SCIAMETTA- US ARMY
MARIO CATANIA-USMC
RYAN ANTHONY NASCIMENTO-USMC
ENS. RYAN M. SHOWS -USN
STAFF SGT. RYAN REXRODE-USMC
DR. KARA VANDEKIEFT, LT.COL.-USAF
SGT. STEPHEN D. OUTCAULT-USMC
PAUL MUMOLO-USN
VICTORIA ZEMAN, USCG

Safely Home... We Remember

*Felicia Nicodemo, Helen Zach, Margaret O'Keefe
Mary Phillips*

Celebrating the Liturgy- With Grateful Hearts We Serve

PRESIDER SCHEDULE-FOR September 15th & 16th, 2018

Saturday, September 15, 2018 5:00 PM	Sunday, September 16, 2018 8:00 AM MASS	Sunday, September 16, 2018 10:00 AM MASS	Sunday, September 16, 2018 12:00 MASS
Father Leo Lasrado	Father Patrick Osei-Poku	Father Tom Haggerty	Father Tom Haggerty

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS SCHEDULE-FOR September 15th & 16th, 2018

Saturday, September 15, 2018	Sunday, September 16, 2018	Sunday, September 16, 2018	Sunday, September 16, 2018
5:00 PM	8:00 AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
B. Carey	P. Kanuika	J. Kirdahy	P. Agoglia
H. Collins	M. Kenney	O. Laiz	M. Laub
K. Consenz	G. Beisel	M. Latino	E. Sotomayer
J. Giacalone	L. Beisel	J. Lavan	E. Law
G. Priebe	C. Czujko	C. Lombardi	M. McCreesh
M. Fox	R. Doda, Sr.	D. Mulhall	M. Peykar
E. Kaleita, Jr.	M. Dunn	C. Napolitano	P. Roman
P. Kaleita	R. Fabian	H. Orlando	C. Rubano
A. Keenan	C. Haff	G. Patalano	V. Rubano
H. Keenan	W. Haff	L. Patalano	A. Santo

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE-FOR September 15th & 16th, 2018

Saturday, September 15, 2018	Sunday, September 16, 2018	Sunday, September 16, 2018	Sunday, September 16, 2018
5:00PM MASS	8:00AM MASS	10:00 AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
M. Pappas	J. Auletta	S. Cheeseman	A. Peykar
V. Scarpelli	L. Auletta	K. Tomasic	C. D'Agostino
M. Page	A. Willman	M. Tomasic	S. Santos
B. Doran	B. Willman	N. Stephens	S. Glen
E. Schor	V. Chiappone	E. Anderson	M. Bennett

LECTOR SCHEDULE-FOR September 15th & 16th, 2018

Saturday, September 15, 2018	Sunday, September 16, 2018	Sunday, September 16, 2018	Sunday, September 16, 2018
5:00PM MASS	8:00 AM MASS	10:00AM MASS	12:00 NOON MASS
L. Auleta	A. Gelfand	C. Philips	G. Hoonhout
A. Kaiser	L. Halluska	G. Law	L. Just

Getting Ready for Next Sunday

September 16th - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cycle B

Scripture Readings ONLINE

The website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provides the text of the Scripture Readings. Go to: www.usccb.org . Click on the date.

Reflections on Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 50:4c-9a

Psalms 116

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

The modern believer has many opportunities for Christian discipleship. For example, husbands and wives must share mutual concerns. Parents are constantly challenged to embrace the problems of their children. Citizens and parishioners must involve themselves in the community, both civic and church. All of these arenas provide a gospel-like barometer of our search for personal identity. The real me emerges to the extent that I am involved in the world of concerns. To find oneself is to lose oneself.

The speaker in today's Isaiah passage is described as a disciple open to God's word as the Babylonian exile comes to an end. Unlike his audience, this person trusts in Yahweh. His loyalty to God brings rejection and humiliation. Yet he gives all of himself in order to identify with God's suffering people.

The author of James contrasts living faith and dead faith. He believes that everyday life is the arena for living faith. The acceptance of divine revelation requires an openness to God's world of concerns. To simply wish our brothers or sisters good luck without addressing their real needs is lifeless faith. Faith is the basis of good works; they are not two distinct expressions.

The gospel passage today endorses again Mark's consistent message -- that Jesus is the Messiah. At the same time, this reading prepares us for Jesus' passion and death by showing us that Jesus is a suffering Messiah. Peter cannot accept this qualification of suffering as the road to glory. Thus Peter becomes a prosecuting attorney (a "Satan" or devil's advocate). Mark uses Peter's confusion to teach about Christian discipleship. To be a disciple means to deny oneself and take up the cross. In order to save one's life it is necessary to lose that life.

— John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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For reflection...

Today, in your own life experience, how do you answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter recognized Jesus as the Messiah, but as Jesus described his future of suffering, death and resurrection, Peter tried to convince Jesus to "tone things down" a bit. Can you relate to Peter's reaction? How might you respond to Peter? to Jesus?

In the second reading we are again challenged to put our faith into action. Who are some of the people you admire for both their faith and their actions? In what ways do you put your faith into action?

Isaiah reminds us that we need to be open to hear the Word of God, and need to remain faithful in the midst of hardship. What helps you to be open to God's Word? What helps you to be faithful?

AN ODE TO THE CHURCH

Carlo Carretto was an Italian monk who died in 1988. For many years he lived as a hermit in the Sahara Desert, translated the scriptures into the Tuareg language, and from the solitude of the desert wrote some extraordinary spiritual books. His writings and his faith were special in that they had a rare capacity to combine an almost childlike piety with (when needed) a blistering iconoclasm. He loved the church deeply, but he wasn't blind to its faults and failures, and he wasn't afraid to point out those shortcomings.

Late in life, when his health forced him to leave the desert he retired to a religious community in his native Italy. While there, late in life, he read a book by an atheist who took Jesus to task for a phrase in the Sermon on the Mount where he says: "Seek and you shall find", meaning, of course, that if you seek God with an honest heart you will find God. The atheist had entitled his book, *I Sought and I Didn't Find*, arguing from his own experience that an honest heart can seek God and come up empty. Carretto wrote a book in reply called: *I Sought and I Found*. For him, Jesus' counsel rang true. In his own search, despite encountering many things that could indicate the absence of God, he found God. But he admits the difficulties, and one of those difficulties is, at times, the church. The church can, and sometimes does, through its sin, make it difficult for some to believe in God. Carretto admits this with a disarming honesty but argues that it's not the whole picture.

Hence his book combines his deep love for his faith and his church with his refusal to not turn a blind eye to the very real faults of Christians and the churches. At one point in the book he gives voice to something which might be described as an *Ode to the Church*. It reads this way:

How much I must criticize you, my church and yet how much I love you!

How you have made me suffer much and yet owe much to you.

I should like to see you destroyed and yet I need your presence.

You have given me much scandal and yet you alone have made me understand holiness.

Never in this world have I seen anything more obscurantist, more compromised, more false, and yet never in this world have I touched anything more pure, more generous, and more beautiful.

Many times I have felt like slamming the door of my soul in your face – and yet how often I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms!

No, I cannot be free of you, for I am one with you, even though not completely you.

Then, too – where would I go? To build another church?

But I cannot build another without the same defects, for they are my own defeats I bear within me.

And again, if I build one, it will be my Church, and no longer Christ's.

No, I am old enough to know that I am no better than others.

I shall not leave this Church, founded on so frail a rock, because I should be founding another one on an even frailer rock: myself.

And then, what do rocks matter?

What matters is Christ's promise, what matters is the cement that binds the rocks into one: the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit alone can build the Church with stones as ill-hewn as we.

This is an expression of a mature faith; one which isn't so romantic and idealistic that it needs to be shielded from the darker side of things and one which is real enough so as not to be so cynical that it blinds itself to the evident goodness that also emanates from the church. In truth, the church is both horribly compromised and wonderfully grace-filled. Honest eyes can see both. A mature heart can accept both. Children and novices need to be shielded from the dark underbelly of things; scandalized adults need to have their eyes opened to the evident goodness that's also there.

Many people have left the church because it has scandalized them through its habitual sins, blind spots, defensiveness, self-serving nature, and arrogance. The recent revelations (again) of sexual abuse by priests and the cover-up by church authorities have left many people wondering whether they can ever again trust the church's structure, ministers, and authorities. For many, this scandal seems too huge to digest.

Carlo Carretto's Ode, I believe, can help us all, whether scandalized or pious. To the pious, it can show how one can accept the church despite its sin and how denial of that sin is not what's called for by love and loyalty. To the scandalized, it can be a challenge to not miss the forest for the trees, to not miss seeing that, in the church, frailty and sin, while real, tragic, and scandalous, never eclipse the superabundant life-giving grace of God.